

that membership organizations are going to have to disclose their donor list. As recently as today, the Republican leader said this will force organizations to disclose their donor lists. It won't. Not at a \$10,000 threshold. You can get a lifetime membership in the National Rifle Association for \$1,000. If you are a cat and you have nine lives, you can get nine lifetime memberships in the NRA and still not break the \$10,000 threshold. It will catch 93 percent of the money that goes into the super PACs because it goes in in such big chunks.

So it is a good number to use. It protects the small membership organizations but hits virtually all the big donors. Clearly, it is not an attack on the first amendment. This charge has its roots only in the opponents' imagination, not in the U.S. Constitution. It contains no restrictions or limitations on speech of any kind. None. Pure disclosure legislation, plain and simple, as my Republican colleagues have heretofore usually supported.

The Court, in *Citizens United*, fully supported disclosure. Prompt disclosure of expenditures can provide shareholders and citizens with the information needed to hold corporations and elected officials accountable for their positions.

An important point, going back to the words that began this vote, from our Founding Father James Madison: A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both. The Supreme Court recognized this, and clearly it is constitutional.

The last is the argument that this bill in some way will intimidate the big spenders. First of all, the idea of the billionaire Koch brothers or gigantic coal barons or ExxonMobil—the largest corporation in the world—being intimidated by the unkind words of some blogger is preposterous on its face.

Second, Justice Scalia has said: Requiring people to stand up in public for their political acts fosters civic courage, without which democracy is doomed.

May I point out that it is a rather small courage. On the way here this afternoon, I passed through the trolley lobby. Down in the trolley lobby was a young marine from Pennsylvania who had lost both his legs to an IED explosion in Afghanistan. We can ask our young men and women to travel the roads of Kandahar and to risk blowing off their legs and coming home like that young man, but we can't ask billionaire big spenders to even show who they are even though, clearly, the link to motive and influence and control and corruption is apparent? It is a ridiculous proposition, and I hope my colleagues will not persist in following it.

They have even compared themselves to the NAACP during the civil rights movement—Black families burned out

of their homes, and they compare the Koch brothers being criticized by bloggers to that. It simply isn't so, and it simply isn't right.

I will conclude by saying that we are not done. This is too important. It is too important for what America stands for. It is too important for the middle class who are going to be losers in the debates that are influenced and corrupted by special interest money. It is too important for the world which depends on the example that America provides.

So we didn't have any luck today. We are going to vote again tomorrow. I urge my colleagues to vote with us. But even if we don't win tomorrow, we will be back again and again and again.

When Joshua took the Israelites around the city of Jericho, they went around and around blowing their rams horns so that those walls would come tumbling down. It didn't happen on the first circuit, it didn't happen on the second. According to the Bible, Joshua had to go around the city of Jericho seven times before the walls came tumbling down. I don't care if we have to do this 7 times or 77 times; we are going to do this because it is right.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING VIRGINIA RUTH LONG

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I am privileged to honor Mrs. Virginia Ruth Long of Owsley County, KY. Mrs. Long, wife of Booneville mayor Charles Long, passed away at age 92 on March 27, 2012. A lifelong resident of Owsley County, Mrs. Long, a mother, beautician, and homemaker, was truly beloved by the Booneville community. It is with great respect that I recognize the First Lady of Booneville and her lifetime of commitment and service to Booneville and the people of her community.

Mrs. Long was born in Indian Creek, KY, on October 1, 1919. She graduated from Owsley County High School in 1938. Upon her graduation, she attended cosmetology school in Lexington. After completing her schooling, Mrs. Long returned to her home, Owsley County, where she opened the first beauty shop in Booneville.

In 1939, she married Charles Long. The two were married for 73 years and had two children: Charlotte and Charles Edwin. Mrs. Long not only raised her children and maintained the home but also worked for 62 years in her beauty parlor. She quickly became a staple of Booneville, and many women in Owsley County recall her

being the first person to ever style their hair professionally.

Ruth's contributions to the Booneville community stemmed from running a business, raising a family, and playing a major role in her husband's public career. A World War II veteran and mayor of Booneville for 54 years, Charles Long is no stranger to public service. Through the many years that Charles has served the Booneville community, Mrs. Long remained a constant partner to him and accompanied him on many trips he made as Booneville mayor.

Though Ruth was a source of strength for her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Long equally relied upon one other. During one of Mr. Long's trips as Booneville mayor, Mrs. Long fell and broke her hip. Despite the demands of his public post, Mr. Long extended his trip by 3 weeks to help her recover from her injury. The couple was again tested in 2010 when their daughter, Charlotte, passed away. Though this tragic time was very difficult, as it would be for any parent who loses a child, Mr. and Mrs. Long's faith and reliance upon each other helped them to cope with such a great loss. Ultimately, Ruth was able to still find joy in her life through her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Apart from being loved by her family, Mrs. Long was beloved by the Owsley County community. She was a faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church of Booneville. She was also famed for having the best angel food cake in the county. However, more importantly, it was her warm, inviting nature that caused members of the community to come to love and admire Mrs. Long. An avid storyteller, she was a friend to all. After her death, many members of the community said they became better people by knowing Mrs. Long.

I am honored to memorialize Ruth today as a lifetime servant of Owsley County. Without holding public office, she dutifully served her Booneville community through her devotion to her husband, Mayor Charles Long, and her life of friendship with its citizens. Kentuckians who live dedicated, humble lives of service like Mrs. Long are what make our Commonwealth strong. Today I ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join me in remembering Mrs. Virginia Ruth Long, the First Lady of Booneville, KY.

Mr. President, an article was recently published by the Booneville Sentinel, an Owsley County-area publication, recognizing the life of Mrs. Long. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Booneville Sentinel, May 10, 2012]

TRIBUTE FOR THE "FIRST LADY OF BOONEVILLE"

Virginia Ruth Long was born in Indian Creek in Owsley County on October 1, 1919. She later moved to Cow Creek, also in